

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1429

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OTONOU

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TAGS: N/A

SUB: HOUPHOUET TO NOMINATE ABDOULAYE FATIGA FOR
GOVERNORSHIP OF CENTRAL BANK OF WEST AFRICA (BCEAO)

1. IN CONVERSATION DEC 19 WITH THE DIRECTOR FOR IVORY COAST
OF THE
CENTRAL BANK OF WEST AFRICA, (BCEAO) LAMINE BIABATE (PROTECTT)
AMBASSADOR LEARNED THAT PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY HAS DECIDED TO
NAME ABDOULAYE FADIGN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE "CAISSE DE
STABILISATION" (STABIZATION FUND FOR COFFEE, COCOA, AND PALM OIL),
AS THE FIRST AFRICAN GOVERNOR OF THE BCEAO,
WHICH IS TO HAVE ITS HEADQUARTERS IN DAKAR. THIS CONFIRMS
A REPORT IN A RECENT ISSUE OF LE MONITEUR AFRICAN.

2. DIABATE TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET HAD FIRST
APPROACHED HIM TO TAKE THE JOB, BUT THAT HE HAD DECLINED ON
GROUNDS HIS PRESENT JOB AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, HIS POSITION
AS DIRECTOR OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ODIENNE
PREFECTURE (ONE OF THE NORTHERN PREFECTURES THAT IS COMING IN
FOR GREATLY INCREASED ASSISTANCE FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT).
THE PRESIDENT HAD THEN ASKED MINISTER OF COMMERCE MAURICE SERI
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GNOLEBA TO TAKE THE DAKAR POST; HE ALSO DECLINED ON GROUNDS

HIS PRESENT JOB MORE IMPORTANT. LEARNING OF THE EARLIER APPROACH TO DIABATE, FADIGA APPROACHED DIABATE TO ASK HIS SUPPORT WITH PRESIDENT HOUPHOET FOR THE POSITION, WHICH DIABATE WHEN RECOMMENDED TO PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT AGREED.

3. DABATE ADMITTED THAT HE HAD HAD A CERTAIN RELUCTANCE TO TAKE THE JOB IN VIEW OF TREMENDOUS DIFFICULTIES THAT WOULD BE FACED BY FIRST INCUMBENT IN PUTTING INTO PRACTICE A NEW SYSTEM AMONG SIX STATES WITH VERY UNEVEN LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT.

4. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF ANY OTHER PROPOSED CANDIDATES, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAD HEARD THAT TICMOKO COULIBALY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIETE GENERALE DE BANQUE AND SLATED TO TAKE OVER THE DIRECTORSHIP LATER THIS YEAR FOR A FRENCHMAN, HAD ALSO BEEN OFFERED THE JOB, BUT HAD DECLINED FOR PERSONAL REASONS OF NOT WISHING TO LIVE OUTSIDE IVORY COAST.

5. FADIGA HAS BEEN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE "CAISSE" SINCE 1968, AND A MEMBER OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE PDCI (IVORY COAST'S SOLE POLITICAL PARTY) SINCE 1970. BORN IN 1935 IN TOUBA, IVORY COAST, FADIGA HAS A DOCTORATE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF DIJON, FRANCE. HE HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY REPRESENTING IVORY COAST AT COMMODITY CONFERENCES AND WAS AN IVORY COAST GRANTEE IN 1971.
SMITH

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